



City of Winslow

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PRESS RELEASE

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Winslow Levee Project to receive \$65.75 million from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) work plan from the Army Corps of Engineers

We are pleased to announce the Winslow Levee Project has received critically needed Federal funding.

With the support of our Congressional Delegation members, Congressman O'Halleran and Senators Kelly and Sinema, funding through the Army Corps of Engineer's Workplan has been secured for the design and construction of the Winslow Levee Project. Winslow Mayor Roberta "Birdie" Cano stated: "We are extremely fortunate to secure the final \$65.75 million to design and construct the Winslow Levee Project. This monumental step in the process not only represents a new beginning for the City of Winslow, but also the culmination of our efforts in partnership with Navajo County leadership to comprehensively address the critical infrastructure needs of Winslow and the region."

Since the Federal Emergency Management Agency decertified the Winslow Levee in 2008, Winslow has not been able to fully realize its potential for economic

prosperity. The decertification of the levee placed nearly two-thirds of Winslow residents, many of whom live below the federal poverty line, into the position of needing to carry flood insurance they cannot afford.

The Little Colorado River has flooded the City of Winslow seventeen times since these events have been documented. Property values have been stifled by FEMA restrictions on improvements and renovations of properties and structures located in the Flood Zone. Nearly every home, business, school, hospital and emergency service provider is located in a 100-year flood zone.

The project will also relieve the conditions experienced by Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe residents, many of whom have been involuntarily placed in the Flood Zone.

Winslow serves as a critical link in the movement of billions of dollars in goods between Long Beach and Chicago. As BNSF trains continue to cross the Little Colorado River, Winslow's existing levee system has been at risk of failure.

Winslow is proud of its standing as a renowned tourist destination and logistical hub for the transportation industry, with an airport built by and named for Charles Lindbergh, a major Interstate Highway, BNSF rail, and the Little Colorado River.

The Winslow Levee Project is critical to not only our public safety, but also the future socio-economic viability of Winslow and its neighboring jurisdictions along the Little Colorado River. This project has struggled to compete against wealthier, and more urbanized communities for urgently needed Federal funding, representing an environmental justice issue that has finally been addressed.

Levee reconstruction will go a long way in protecting rural and tribal communities, creating jobs, increasing property values, attracting development projects, and stimulating the local and regional economy across Northern Arizona.